IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant:	Hongjiang Song	§	Art Unit:	2631
		§		
Serial No.:	09/473,740	§		
		§	Examiner:	Don Nguyen Vo
Filed:	December 28, 1999	§		
		§		
Title:	Synchronization Detection	§	Docket No.	ITL.0327US
	Architecture for Serial Data	§		(P8030)
	Communication	§		

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2002

Dear Sir:

In an Office Action mailed on November 20, 2002, claims 1-8 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over alleged admitted prior art in view of Kline; and claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over alleged admitted prior art in view of Kline and further in view of Banker, Andersson or Julyan. These rejections are discussed in the corresponding sections below.

Rejections of Claims 1-7:

The method of claim 1 includes during buffering bits to accommodate a difference between a first rate of incoming data and a second rate of outgoing data, detecting whether at least some of the bits indicate a synchronization field.

The Examiner relies on Kline to allegedly teach detecting whether some bits indicate a synchronization field during buffering of bits to accommodate a difference between a first rate of incoming data and a second rate of outgoing data. However, contrary to the Examiner's intention, Kline does not teach or suggest such detection during the buffering of the data to

accommodate different rates. In this manner, Kline does not even teach a difference between a rate of incoming data and a rate of outgoing data. The Examiner refers to a register file 56 that circuitry of a receiver data decoder 38 uses to find word boundaries. However, Kline neither teaches nor suggests that the register file 56 is used for purposes of buffering data to accommodate a difference between incoming and outgoing rates of data. Thus, for at least this reason, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for at least the additional reason that the Examiner provides no support for the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine the alleged admitted prior art and Kline. In this manner, support for the alleged suggestion or motivation must be specifically shown by the Examiner by specific citations to a prior art reference in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *Ex parte Gambogi*, 62 USPQ2d 1209, 1212 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2001); *In re Rijckaert*, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); M.P.E.P. § 2143. Thus, for at least this additional reason, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 1.

Claims 2-7 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 8-14:

The repeater of claim 8 includes a data recovery circuit to buffer bits to accommodate a difference between a first rate of the incoming data and a second rate of outgoing data. The repeater also includes a synchronization detection circuit that detects, while the data recovery circuit is buffering bits, whether at least some of the bits indicate a synchronization field.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 8 for at least the reason that Kline fails to teach or suggest a synchronization detection circuit to detect whether bits indicate a synchronization field while a data recovery circuit is buffering the bits. In this manner, Kline teaches a register file 56. However, the register file 56 does not buffer bits to accommodate a difference between a first rate of incoming data and a second rate of outgoing

data. Thus, for at least this reason, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 8.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 8 for at least the additional reason that the Examiner provides no support for the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine the alleged admitted prior art and Kline.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claim 8. Claims 9-14 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 15-20:

The system of claim 15 includes a repeater to receive an indication of bits of incoming data from a first serial bus and concurrently buffer the bits to accommodate a difference between a first rate of the incoming data and a second rate of outgoing data and detect whether at least some of the bits indicate a synchronization field.

Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Kline neither teaches nor suggests concurrently buffering bits to accommodate different rates of data. Thus, for at least this reason, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 15. Furthermore, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 15 for at least the reason that the Examiner provides no specific support for the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine Kline with the alleged admitted prior art.
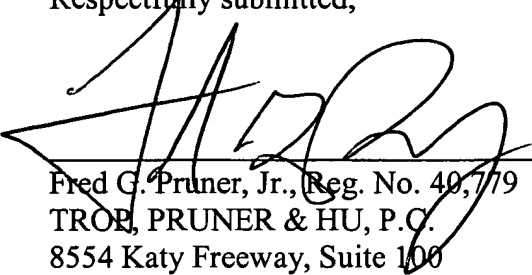
Claims 16-20 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0327US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 18, 2002

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